

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

STOCK-POISONING PLANTS.

How It Looks.

The three sections of the booth contain many painted photographs, very artistically arranged, of the three plants: horses, cattle and sheep in various stages of poisoning by the eating of these plants; and short, terse text describing the botanical characteristics and other facts of special interest to the stockman.

What It Tells

Plants which are injurious to domestic animals are found in all parts of the United States. The heaviest losses by poisoning, however, have occurred in the West, partly because of the methods used in handling animals on the range, and partly because those plants sometimes grow in that part of the country in large masses. Three groups of plants which are especially destructive in the range country have been chosen to illustrate the exhibit.

Larkspurs grow in the eastern United States and cause some losses, but they are found in special abundance in the mountain regions of the West. They are poisonous to horses, but all the losses under range conditions are of cattle. Sheep can graze on Larkspur without harmful effect, but heavy losses are caused in cattle. A method of treating cattle poisoned by larkspur has been found which will prevent a large part of the losses. It is also possible in restricted areas to grub out enough of the plants to prevent serious loss.

The Whorled milkweeds are not so widely distributed as some other plants, but they are especially

injurious because of their intensely poisonous character. They effect cattle, horses, and sheep, but most of the losses have been of sheep. Two or three ounces of the plant may kill a sheep. These plants are never eaten by animals by choice, but only when they are deprived of other suitable forage.

The loco weeds are probably the most destructive of all the poisonous plants of the West. They affect cattle, horses, and sheep, and have caused enormous losses. The symptoms come on only after somewhat prolonged feeding, and recovery, if it occurs, is a long process. There are a number of loco weeds, and three of the most important are illustrated in the exhibit. Various closely related plants of the pea family are popularly called ~~locoes~~ locoes but are not poisonous. Loco plants are widely distributed, covering a large portion of the plains areas of the West. Methods of treatment have been devised by which recovery can be practically assured in regard to cattle, and horses may recover to such an extent as to be useful, although they are never so good as before suffering from the disease.

Where To Get Information.

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dept. Bulletin	365	-	Larkspur Poisoning of Livestock.
"	"	800	- Whorled Milkweed as Poisonous Plant.
"	"	969	- Mexican Whorled Milkweed as Poisonous Plant.
"	"	988	- Larkspur of "Poison Weed"
"	"	1054	- Loco-weed Disease.

